

Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
(approved as amended 1-15-20)

Attending: Laura Draucker (Chair), Andra Rose (Vice-chair), Darcy Dumont, Dwayne Breger, Jesse Selman, Evan Ross, Steve Roof

Staff: Stephanie Ciccarello, Sustainability Coordinator

Absent: Ashwin Ravikumar

Public: Rachel Nadolny

Meeting called to order at 4:34 PM

Review of meeting minutes from 12/14/19

- **Motion:** Roof moved to accept the minutes, Draucker second. Approved 6-0-1

Public comment

- None

Staff update

- CCA: The CCA task force will craft new language on Friday and send it back to the Town Council.
- The summary report for CCA is in the packet. The report discusses feasibility and making a recommendation to move forward with CCA.

Climate action plan discussion

- Stephanie gave a presentation summarizing the MVP grant report. Stephanie will send this presentation to everyone.
- If Amherst receives the MVP grant, the climate action plan needs to reference the 4 vulnerabilities identified in the MVP Planning round which are: Increased heat, increased precipitation, drought, and extreme weather. Also, the climate action plan should include the highest priorities identified from the both the MVP process and the outreach sessions ECAC has done. The plan will need to include mitigation, resilience, and adaptation.
- Tools and resources that could be helpful for climate action planning:
 - Temperate - an online site that data can be put in and in return it can help you identify your vulnerabilities and strategies to address them. The cost to purchase this for town is not terrible; if we get MVP grant, we might be able to purchase this. There is a free trial.
 - Global covenant of Mayors – joining would provide access to resources.
- Stephanie displayed the municipal data for energy usage on the Mass Energy Insight website. Selman commented on how much we have to decrease in 10 years for GHG emissions. Breger said that the two things the town will need to utilize: energy efficiency and to substitute with clean energy.
- Selman commented about the towns GHG inventory was not satisfying and that it is a very important piece. He stated it appears that some of the assumptions may be incorrect and we should verify. Stephanie mentioned that some of the numbers were proxy numbers. Breger said that he knows someone who is making GHG inventory more

user friendly. Draucker commented that the action we take will not show up on inventory because we don't have accurate data.

- Discussion on what ECAC hopes to get out of a climate action plan:
 - Building projects - we should not be building any building that will not last longer than 30 years. Buildings need to be built for zero energy or for transition
 - A plan to show how technically how - the actual technical plan, and then work with that the strategies - financial, economic, and/or justify how to stretch out goals further. Consistency with the institutions and the town would be great.
 - Selman commented that there needs to be a cultural shift. He asks everyone to think about over break: begin to brainstorm an event that is direct, fun, impactful. In March, there is earth hour, this could be a good day to do something. Have to be careful to not point fingers at individuals. The goal is a social experience to raise awareness about climate action. Potentially partner with Green Consumer Alliance for an event.
 - We want to lay out technically what we need to do and not forget about education and cultural change. Think about system thinking and not changing individual people.

Climate impact procurement discussion

- Currently procurement items are listed as having no impact operating budget, but this is not true. Every time someone is suggesting adding new technology then it does have an impact on operating budget.
- The Chief of Police and the School Superintendent is willing to meet with ECAC to talk about procurement climate impact. Someone should put information together for the Police Chief: cost savings, pros and cons, miles hybrid/electric vehicles can go, etc.
- When taking on procurement projects, it is important to keep in mind how it will impact ECAC's goals. Also, to lay out the options that are available for procurement, pros and cons to all, capital cost and operational cost.
- Stephanie can set up meeting with department heads to start these discussions.
- ECAC needs to provide guidance on how to do an operating budget.

Unforeseen items

- None

Public comment

- None

Next agenda

- Update MVP
- Update on these meetings for climate impact
- Talk about annual report
- Outreach for housing and residential, renter: how we address this

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM

**Submitted,
Rachel Nadolny**